AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of separating stereoisomers of benzoporphyrin derivatives (BPDs) by a capillary electrophoresis system, which method comprises:

separating, after injection of a sample containing said BPDs, stereoisomers [[~~by~~]] with said capillary electrophoresis system,

wherein the capillary inner diameter, capillary length, field strength, separation temperature, pH, buffer system, ionic strength, chiral selector, and organic solvent are selected to result in separation of BPD stereoisomers.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said capillary electrophoresis system comprises a laser-induced fluorescence detection system.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said BPDs are selected from BPD-MA, BPD-DA, or mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1 or 2 wherein said separation is baseline separation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said capillary inner diameter is about 50 μm.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said capillary length is from about 27 to about 57 cm.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said capillary length is about 37 cm.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said field strength is from about +15 to about +25 KV.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said field strength is about +20 KV.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said separation temperature is from about 15 to about 30°C.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein said separation temperature is about 20°C.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said pH is from about 8.05 to about 9.6.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12 wherein said pH is from about 9.2.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said buffer system is borate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said ionic strength is from about [[~~200~~]] 120 to about 360 mM borate.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said ionic strength is about 300 mM borate.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said chiral selector is a bile salt.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said bile salt is a cholate salt.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said cholate salt is sodium cholate.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein said organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of DMF, isopropanol or acetonitrile.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said organic solvent is acetonitrile.